

REMARKS

Claims 49-84, 86-91 and 93-143 are pending in this patent application. Of these claims, claims 49, 98 and 143 are independent claims. Claim 143 has been amended herein by inserting a limitation previously recited in claim 49.

In the most recent Office Action, many of the claims 49-84, 86-91 and 93-143 are rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), including independent claims 49, 98 and 143, over FLETCHER-HAYNES et al. Published Application No. 2001/0034614 in view of BRIERTON et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,234,989.

The present invention is directed to a system, computer readable medium and method for managing a procedure in a blood component collection facility which includes a computer having software which has a blood collection initialization code segment and an arm-prep code segment. See, for example, paragraph 0096 of the specification.

FLETCHER-HAYNES discloses a computerized blood collection system which is designed to optimize and maximize the yield of desired blood components, such as platelets, plasma and red blood cells. See the abstract and paragraphs 0162 and 0195. The FLETCHER-HAYNES system includes a Wizard display which leads the operator through

procedures to be used for such optimization. See paragraphs 0121-0143 and Fig. 3 of FLETCHER-HAYNES. However, there is no mention whatsoever of an arm-prep code segment or of any input or desire or need to input or log in the arm-prep procedure as set forth in all of the independent claims of the present application.

Likewise, BRIERTON has nothing to do with an arm-prep code segment or of any input or desire or need to input or log in the arm-prep procedure as set forth in all of the independent claims of the present application. BRIERTON discloses a display screen 696 shown in Figs. 26-45 and which is described at column 51, line 5 to column 62, line 3. Screen 696 has a status bar 676 with a plurality of icons including a load icon 704, an info icon 708, a prepare icon 720, a donate icon 720 and an unload icon 724. These icons pictorially convey the status of the blood collection process to inform the operator of the present status, such as by the use of different color shades (Col. 52, lines 45-54). These icons, including the prepare icon 720, are merely status indicators. There is no disclosure or teaching in BRIERTON of using software which has a blood collection initialization code segment and an arm-prep code segment, as claimed in independent claims 49, 98 and 143.

Of course, the act of arm-prep in a blood collection

procedure is well known. However, the provision of an arm-prep code segment in the computer software is not well known nor is the provision for logging such procedure in well known. The arm-prep code segment in the software and the logging in of the arm-prep procedure is what is claimed, not the simple act of arm-prep which is well known. In the present invention, such code segment and logging in is important in confirming in the record that the blood collection procedure was properly implemented.

Thus the combination of FLETCHER-HAYNES and BRIERTON does not fairly teach or suggest the present invention as claimed in independent claims 49, 98 and 143. Of course, the remaining independent claims place additional limitations on independent claims 49 and 98. Thus, these independent claims should also be allowable.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of independent claims 49, 98 and 143 are respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in this patent application, namely, claims 49-84, 86-91 and 93-143, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable consideration and allowance are respectfully solicited.

Other than the Petition for an Extension of Time, no additional fees are believed to be due. However, if additional fees are due, such fees may be charged to our deposit account number 50-1039.

Respectfully submitted,

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